



Ian Lockyer Joinery: From Tree to Table

Dissatisfied with the origin and standard of commercial timber, Cumbria-based joiner Ian Lockyer decided on a radical solution--building his own wood-drying kiln.

He first got the idea to dry his own timber when he was trying to source Oak to make a staircase. In the end he had to make it from American Oak due to cost and lack of supply of English and European Oak, but after fitting the staircase he began to think how wrong it seemed to transport timber from across the Atlantic when there was better timber on his doorstep. He also had problems with timber from suppliers not being dried correctly, prompting his idea to source and dry it himself.

Ian works from his traditional joiner's shop, situated between Underbarrow & Crossthwaite, near Kendal. In addition to traditional joinery he specialises in bespoke joinery, and uses native timber wherever possible. His work ranges from doors, windows, stairs, fitted and free standing furniture to architectural restoration projects.

He dries mainly Oak but will consider any timber if it is sourced locally and if there is demand for it. He is also interested in clients who would like to use their own timber and turn it into a final product.

The end result is that Ian can rightfully claim that his products are examples of locally sourced, quality, environmentally sound timber & joinery. He is also passionate about keeping small rural businesses and traditional skills alive.

Recent fuel price rises have highlighted the potential benefits of Ian's business model, which has enabled him to slash the costs that usually go on transporting timber.

Ian received support from Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency through the Intensive Start-Up Support programme, attending a marketing workshop and receiving specific advice on copywriting, contacting the media, and marketing in general.

The ISUS programme is part of Solutions for Business, the Government's package of publicly funded business support designed to help companies start and grow. The programme is funded by the NWDA and European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is making a real difference to people and businesses in the Northwest. With €755 million to invest between 2007 and 2013, ERDF is enhancing the competitiveness of the region's economy by supporting growth in enterprise and employment. ERDF in the Northwest is managed by the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA).